

From the "Californian" of August 14.
The Gold Mine.

A few months ago we were in the habit of speaking of the agricultural resources and the commercial qualities of California as being the source of her greatest wealth, and although they are not inferior to any portions of the world, the soil constitutes but a small part of her wealth, all interests having been absorbed in the working of the mines.

The present number of the Californian is intended for circulation abroad as well as at home, and will, by giving a minute and general view of the all-absorbing topic, the gold mine, be found useful to persons to send to their distant friends. The information which we shall give has been gathered from actual observation, and from persons who have been engaged at the mines, and from the most authentic sources, as it is desirable that the facts be correctly known through other countries, and especially through the United States.

Some time since, in the spring, Messrs Marshall & Bennett, in opening a ditch for a tail race for a saw mill, which had been built on the American fork of the Sacramento, found some gold which the current had collected in the bottom of the race, which, after being examined, was found to be very pure. It soon began to attract attention, and some persons discovered the gold in the river below, and for some distance above, in large quantities—so much so that persons who only gave credit to one third of what was said about it left their homes and went to work in the mines. It was the work of but a few weeks to bring almost the entire population of the territory together to pick up the precious metal. The result has been that in less than four months a total revolution has been effected in the prospects and the fate of Alta California. Then the capital was in the hands of a few individuals engaged in trade and speculation; now labor has got the upper hand of capital, and the laboring men hold the great mass of the wealth of the country—the gold.

There are now about four thousand white persons, besides a number of Indians, engaged at the mines, and, from the fact that no capital is required, they are working in companies on equal shares, or alone with their basket. In one part of the mine, called the "dry diggings," no other implement is necessary than an ordinary sheath-knife, to pick the gold from the rocks. In other parts, where the gold is washed out, the machinery is very simple, being an ordinary trough, made of plank, round on the bottom, about ten feet long and two feet wide at the top, with a riddle or sieve at one end to catch the larger gravel, and three or four small bars across the bottom, about half an inch high, to keep the gold from going out with the dirt and water at the lower end. This machine is set upon rockers, which give a half rotary motion to the water and dirt inside. But the largest number use nothing but a large tin pan, or an Indian basket, into which they place the dirt, and shake it until the gold gets to the bottom, and the dirt is carried over the side in the shape of muddy water. It is necessary in some cases to have a crowbar, pick and shovel, but a great deal is taken up with large horns, shapen spoon-fashion at the large end. From the fact that no capital is necessary, a fair competition in labor without the influence of capital, men who were only able to procure one month's provisions have now thousands of dollars of the precious metal. The laboring class have now become the capitalists of the country.

As to the richness of the mine, were we to set down half the truth, it would be looked upon in other countries as a "Sin bad" story, or the history of "Alladin's lamp," which required that its possessor should but wish and his wishes should be accomplished. Many persons have collected in one day, of the finest grade of gold, from three to eight hundred dollars, and for many days together averaged from \$75 to \$150. Although this is not universal, yet the general average is so well settled that when a man with his pan or basket does not easily gather thirty to forty dollars in a day he moves to another place, so that taking the general average, including the time spent in moving from place to place and looking for better diggings, we are of the opinion that he may safely set down an ounce of pure gold, or \$16, per day to the man. Suppose there are four thousand persons at work, they will add to the aggregate wealth of the territory about four thousand ounces, or \$64,000 a day.

The value of the gold, like all things else, is regulated by the demand. Four months ago, flour was sold for four dollars per hundred, now sixteen; beef cattle six, now thirty; ready made clothing, groceries, and other goods have not risen in the same proportion, but are at least double their original cost. If we make bread and meat the standard by which to determine the value of the gold, then it is only worth one-fourth of what it is else where. But if gold and silver be the standard, then the bread and meat is worth four times what it was. But the relative value of the grain gold compared with gold and silver coin, can only be changed by the action of government; for, however abundant the gold may be, it must produce its relative value in coin; and while a five dollar gold piece will be received in the treasury as five dollars, so long must an ounce of gold be worth sixteen dollars.

As to the future hope of California, her course is onward with a rapidity which will astonish the world. Her unparalleled gold mines, silver mines, iron ore and lead, with the best climate in the world, and the richest soil, will make it the garden spot of creation.

Chloroform is said to be entirely successful in the cure of delirium tremens.

JOLIET SIGNAL.

JOLIET, ILL.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1848.

The Cause.

We notice that several of our democratic cotemporaries, and particularly the Chicago Democrat, are still engaged in assigning causes for our recent defeat. Some allege that the democracy of the South have proved treacherous to the party and the North; while others assign as a reason for General Cass' defeat, his writing the Nicholson letter.

This discussion in regard to the causes of the defeat of our party, and the reasons assigned, may all be well enough; but it does not appear so to us. And besides this censuring our democratic brethren of the South and charging them with a breach of party faith, is highly unjust. As we have stated heretofore, all the reliable democratic States of the South as the result shows, have proved true to the democracy; but not so with those of the North. With either New York or Pennsylvania, which have always been regarded, and in particular the latter, as strongly democratic, General Cass would have been elected. Some of the southern States that cast their votes for Polk in '44, it is true have gone for Taylor; but it should be remembered that the majority for Polk in each of these States was small, and that heretofore they have been classed with the list of uncertain States.

Now if we are not mistaken in the most plain matters of fact, some of our cotemporaries should take a portion of the blame upon their own shoulders. Nothing contributed so much towards bringing defeat upon us in the recent contest, as the agitation of a dangerous sectional question—one that endangers the existence of the Union—by ambitious aspirants for office at the North, who kept up such agitation in order that their own selfish purposes might be promoted. The agitation of this question of slavery, and eagerness of individuals to profit by it, took from the democracy the States of New York and Pennsylvania and exerted a baneful influence upon the South to a certain extent.

That General Cass' Nicholson letter contained anything calculated to bring defeat upon the party, we are not prepared to admit. If an adherence to the compromises and provisions of our National constitution, brought defeat upon us, then, perhaps that letter had something to do with it. The democratic party has ever stood upon the broad basis of the constitution. Upon this platform all who venerate democratic institutions can stand. The democratic party is not a sectional party but national in all its interests and measures. Let the old landmarks of the party be observed, and these sectional bickerings cease, and another four years will witness the democracy again in the ascendancy.

Instruction to our Senators.

That there will an attempt made at the approaching session of our Legislature, to pass resolutions, instructing the United States Senators from this State to vote for the Wilmot proviso, may be inferred from the indications manifested in certain sections of the State. Saying nothing in regard to the principles of the Wilmot proviso, we do not see the propriety of voting instructions upon it.

The principles of the Wilmot proviso, were not taken into consideration by the electors in the selection of members of our Legislature. For the Legislature to instruct, in view of these facts, would be the assumption of powers which were never delegated to it by the people. The people of Illinois have extended to their Senators and Representatives no right to instruct upon the question of slavery; and any instructions voted under such circumstances, should not be regarded by our Senators in Congress, as they would not emanate from the people.

"A LITTLE MORE GRAPE."—It is proposed that Capt. Bragg be stationed near the White House, as soon as the inauguration takes place, with his artillery to distribute "a little grape" among the crowd of hungry office seekers, in order to keep them from devouring "Old Zack." This recommendation should be adopted by "Old Zack," for there will be at least thirty nine disappointed applicants for each office in the gift of the Executive, whose ravings will be uncontrollable, unless "grape" is administered.

SATISFIED.—Senator Borland, in his late reply to the challenge of Hon. T. B. Flourney at Little Rock, said that he was "sufficiently shot at in the war with Mexico to satisfy the ambition of any man," and advised his antagonist, if his aspirations for notoriety should continue, "to wait until his country's next war, and then seek that occasion for displaying it which he avoided in the last.

Usury Laws.

Nearly every one whom we have heard speak upon the subject, is in favor of the repeal of the law in our statutes limiting the rate of interest to six per cent. per annum. We cannot see any good reason why this law should not be repealed, and hope that the matter will receive due consideration by our Legislature.

It is urged, and with a great deal of truth, that our present limitation law has a tendency to drive capital from our State. This is a strong argument against it, for capital is what is most needed; and without an addition of which the growth and progress of the State will be much impeded.

Laws restricting freedom in money transactions, beyond what is necessary to fix the rate in legal settlements or in cases where no contract is made, embarrasses the business acts of community and fetters them in the use of their means. Such laws tend to remove the competition in loaning money, as they give those who have no scruples against violating the provisions of the statute, an opportunity to loan their money at exorbitant rates. We do not believe it politic to keep our statutes thus incumbered by unnecessary laws, of a character to be frequently violated, for they encourage a spirit to violate the most necessary and useful enactments.

General Taylor has accepted invitations to visit Nashville and Cincinnati on his way to Washington in February. He has also been invited to visit St. Louis.

THE WEATHER.—For the past three or four days, the weather has been quite cold. The snow is more than a foot in depth, and sleighing was never better here than it is now. More snow has fell this winter already, than for three winters previous.

ARKANSAS.—Maj. Borland has been elected United States Senator by the Legislature of Arkansas, for six years, commencing on the 4th of March next.

THOMAS G. TRUMBULL, Esq., editor of the Pike County Sentinel, died at Pittsfield in this State, on the first inst.—The Sentinel will be edited by George W. Smith hereafter.

DROWNED.—A young man, aged about 20 years, whose name we learn was Bulgar, was drowned, on Wednesday last, below the lower bridge in this place. He was in the employ of Mr. Wright, whose team he had drove into the river for the purpose of watering them. The horses getting too far into the river, and the current being swift, they together with the wagon were swept down the stream; the young man jumped from the wagon and sunk almost immediately. We understand that his parents reside in Chicago.

Later from Venezuela.

The schooner Decatur, Captain Morrell, arrived at this port last night, in thirty-four days from Maracaibo.

The Monagas party held the city on the 19th, when Captain M. left, but the Paez party commanded the lake with a fleet of 16 sail, and had cut off all communication and foiled every attempt to pass provisions from the interior into the city.

Though the Paez party had a force of 1,200 men and ample means of taking the city, as there are but about 200 men able to defend it—the inhabitants being sick and enfeebled, in want of food and without ammunition, yet they intend to make no effort until they starve the already famishing few that remain. When Capt. M. was ready to come away, the Governor refused to clear the vessel unless she took a bearer of dispatches for the sum of \$19.

The Sun of this morning publishes a letter from Maracaibo, with the following particulars in relation to the city.

The land forces, about 1,200 in number, are stationed about one mile from the city, thus cutting off effectually all supplies. This investment by the land forces took place but a day or two since.

The number of soldiers in the city does not exceed 800 men, of whom 200 are sick, and there is not three days' stock of provisions in the city. It would seem that the place must surrender within one or two weeks. I left the city on the 16th, and went over to the Island of Providence, (as it is called,) where the families and friends of Gen. Paez reside. I could not but remark the vast difference in the appearance of the women and children; at the Island, all are plump, healthy and well fed, while in the city this same class are little better than skeletons.

The fleet of Monagas, 12 in number, are in the Gulf of Maracaibo. They cannot pass the Bar or the fort of San Carlos. They are attempting to keep up a blockade, but it is seldom they are seen and then not more than two days at a time.

IOWA SENATORS.—Gov. A. C. Dodge, and Geo. W. Jones, Esq., have been elected U. S. Senators from Iowa. The latter passed through here this morning accompanied by Mr. Hatlam, the bearer of the electoral vote of Iowa.—Chi. Journal.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.
Senate.—Not in session to day.
House.—Engaged on private bills.
MAILS TO OREGON AND CALIFORNIA.

Mr. Benton's bill for giving the government contract at Panama to Aspinwall, Stevens, and Co., places the time at not exceeding twenty years, embracing the transportation by steam of army and navy supplies, including troops, munitions of war, and naval and public stores, the mails of the United States, and all persons in its employment. The sum to be paid not to exceed three fourths of the amount now stipulated by law for the transportation of mail from New York to Liverpool. No payment under contract to be made till Railroad shall be so far advanced as to permit Railroad transportation across the Isthmus of Panama wholly by steam power. The Road to be commenced in one year from the date of contract and to be completed by June 1st, 1852.

We see by the proceedings of Congress that Hon. Robert M. Clelland has given notice of intention to introduce the following bills:

A bill making appropriations for the preservation, repair, and completion of certain harbor improvements on the northern lakes.

A bill making appropriations for the improvement of certain harbors on Lake Michigan, and of the St. Clair Flats.

A bill making an appropriation of land for the construction of a canal around the falls of St. Maria, in the State of Michigan.

Hon. K. S. Bingham has also given notice of intention to introduce the following bills: A bill making a grant of land to aid in the completion of the Clinton and Kalamazoo canal, in the State of Michigan; and also a bill for the construction of a military road from Lansing, the capital of the State of Michigan, to Mackinac, in said state.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.

SENATE.—This body was called to order at 12 o'clock. Various petitions were presented and among them, a petition by Mr. Cameron, praying for a reduction of the tariff.

The Panama Railroad bill, was taken up, and Mr. Benton advocated its passage by a forcible argument. Mr. Miller, hoped the bill would be postponed, as he had reason to believe more favorable proposals would be offered by other parties. Mr. Hale, spoke earnestly against its passage.

Mr. Johnson, opposed the passage, and gave his reasons why he thought it right not to be passed.—The bill was laid over.

The Banking bill was postponed, and after important matters, were disposed of in executive session, on motion adjourned. House was called to order at noon by the speaker Mr. Vinton, who reported a bill to supply the deficiency of the civil and diplomatic bill for the year ending Jan. 31, 1849, which was referred.

A motion to reconsider the vote in structing the committee to report the new Mexico and California bill was agreed to and referred.

The Territorial bill which was made the special order of the day is now under discussion. Mr. Giddings asked leave to introduce the bill authorizing the people of the district of Columbia, white and colored, to express by ballot their opinion as to the further toleration of slavery. The House after important business adjourned.

THE CHOLERA.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14—3 P. M.
Seven new cases of Cholera have occurred since our last report. All were among the passengers by the ship New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15—3 P. M.
Dr. Whiting reports 6 new cases and 3 deaths from cholera since last report—all among passengers by ship New York. No cases in the city.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15—3 P. M.
A letter to the Tribune from Washington, says: "We understand that Maj. Cass, son of Lewis, has been appointed Charge to Rome."

From Ohio.

A telegraphic despatch was received from Columbus yesterday morning. It states that two organizations of the House had been effected. The democratic organization consists of 42 members, and the whig house of 30. (The number of the House, under the constitution, is 72.) The democrats have control of the legislative hall, and are now in session.

This is anomalous condition of things. There are three legislative bodies in session at once in Columbus—one, the Senate, consisting of 17 democrats and 16 whigs, and 1 free soiler; and two Houses, one democrat, of 42 members; and the other whigs, of 30 only.—Washington Union.

Canal Tolls.

The Canal tolls received at Chicago and La Salle, from the opening of navigation to November 30th, are as follows:

Chicago,	\$52,077 41
La Salle,	3,813 43
Total tolls,	\$55,890 84

THE CHOLERA.—The New York Tribune, of Wednesday, says: "So far as we are able to judge from a pretty careful examination of all the facts, we think that the horrible reports about the Cholera in New York, published in the Express, are altogether of the imaginary kind. We don't believe that a case of the Cholera, proper, has appeared at Staten Island this season. We have seen nothing like evidence of such a fact."

ARRIVAL OF THE NIAGARA.

The steamer Niagara arrived at Boston the morning of the 16th with one week's later advices.

Cotton advanced. Flour, slight decline. Indian Corn decidedly lower, and quoted at 50s for inferior.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 2.

Grain Market.—Flour generally 21s 2d, duty 6; a retail, 27s 2d. Duties on gain, 3s 7d. American wheat, 6s 6d; 9s; duty paid, 7s 5d per 70 lbs. Indian corn quoted at 31s per quarter; for inferior or white, 22s 2d; for the best yellow meal, dull at 16s.

London Money Market, Dec. 2.—Funds continue very firm.

The most important news is the account of the revolution at Rome on the 17th ult; instigated by the clubs and the submission of the Pope. Advances are up to the 20th, at which time perfect quiet was restored.

The Pope's Secretary, Monsignor Talmi, was shot in the breast. The overwhelming force of the besiegers compelled submission. Negotiations were entered, a new ministry is framed, embracing the foremost leaders of the revolt which was submitted to by the Pope, and on the 1st it was framed.

In England and Scotland the Cholera is decreasing.

PARK THEATRE IN FLAMES.

New York, Dec. 16—7 P. M.
At the closing of this despatch, the Park Theatre is in flames, with three or four other buildings.

Dr. Whiting reports three cases of the Cholera and three deaths, all in the marine hospital since yesterday.

Mexico.

Later from Vera Cruz and the Capital.

By the arrival at New Orleans of the ship Leuel Dyer, from Vera Cruz, the 24th ult, we have received files of the El Arco Iris, of that port, to the 23d, and El Monitor Republicano to the 1st inclusive.

Robbers.—The most barefaced robberies continue to be committed at the capital. Lately, no fewer than two hundred well known thieves left by the Santiago gate, for the purpose of prosecuting their nefarious avocation at the fruit fair of San Juan de los Rios.

Paredes.—The Siglo states that the Government, instead of favoring the flight of this notorious character, sent express to Tampico, to secure his arrest. It had been ascertained that he had passed in a carriage through the town of San Juan Teotihuacan, accompanied by Senor J. M. Nozary and Eusebio Anaya, and escorted a band of two hundred men, principally Spanish peasants. This confirms, says the El Arco Iris, the intelligence that he left Vera Cruz in the British steamer.

The account of another pronunciamento at Mazatlan is formally contradicted.

Tampico.—The Monitor of the 14th states, that the Governor of Tamaulipas, Don J. Cardenas has visited Tampico, to inquire into the causes of the late revolutionary movement. Contrary to general expectation, he approved of them, and promised to stand by the National Guard in their menacing attitude to the Central Government. It was reported at the capital that one hundred and fifty Americans had disembarked at Sote la Marina. Don J. Cardenas is said to be in favor of separating Tamaulipas from Mexico, and annexing it to the United States. He is at this moment an object of great suspicion at the metropolis, and serious results are expected to flow from his supporting the National Guard, whose movements, on the 29th and 30th September, he has publicly stated that he approves.

Coahuila.—In this State, the Indians were committing terrible devastations and there were no troops available to be employed against them.

Tariff.—It is stated that there will shortly be a considerable reduction in the duties on imported goods, and an absolute prohibition of articles, the like of which is fabricated in the country.

Fiscal.—The fiscal difficulties of Herrera's administration are said to be very great. He cannot get any capitalist to negotiate the 800,000 of the indemnity, nor the 600,000 proceeding from the import duties.

Standing Army of Mexico.—A decree was published by President Herrera, on the 4th ult., naming the contingent to be furnished by each Standing army of Mexico. According to a decree of Congress, it is never to exceed 10,000 men, viz: 6,000 infantry, 1,800 cavalry. Their pay, including everything, is \$15 a month to the infantry soldier; \$17 to the artilleryman and engineer, and \$16 to the cavalry. This armed force does not include the military colonies, to be established along the line of the frontier.

The Mexican Congress, which was in recess, was to be called together immediately, in session extraordinary.

Desperate.

The Xenia (Ohio) Torchlight declares, that if General Taylor should "veto" the proviso, his life would not be worth a six weeks' purchase. There are a hundred thousand whigs in the Union who would feel, individually, that the assurance made to the people by them, on the strength of General Taylor's pledges, had placed a stigma on their characters, which could be removed in one way only. They would not hesitate at its removal.

And if he were to sign the Wilmot Proviso, how then would he stand with "a hundred thousand whigs (in the South) who have voted for General Taylor," under similar inducements? Are they, too, to wash their hands in blood? "Uneasy (then) would be the head that wears the crown!"—Washington Union.

The Press—Its Support.

No one who has been a student of the State for the last fifteen years, can be otherwise of the little encouragement extended to the press, generally, and in particular at the many failures that have appeared within that time, among the publishing fraternity. There are about 100 papers now issued in this State, and as it may appear, there has within the period above named, been a vast amount of failures. Indeed, a recollection serves us a right, when we think that there is more than four hundred publishers in this State, who have succeeded in making money beyond the incidental expenses of publishing a paper worth of the Chicago Democrat, more than all the publishers of the State, the late Wm. Walters made a paper by the State printing, and Mr. Brown the Springfield Journal, made \$10,000 by publishing Bankrupts in the course of one year. If there are any other publishers at other points who have made money beyond a decent livelihood, we don't know it. We do, however, personally, of many instances of failures—of failures that were the publishers of the most aggravating paper, after months and years of labor and toil, in which they had "lost" their little all, on the strength and promise of patronage and assistance from the who monopolized the influence of a publication—promises made to be kept. We know also of failures in losses by subscription, etc., alone, in being here and there a man who had he a perfect right to receive his papers gratis—free of cost; in other words who will not pay for them. All points who do a credit business, (all do it) suffer much by this class of—twenty per cent. will be a moderate calculation for collection, losses, Illinois Globe.

Later from Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4, 1848.
I have been here since Thursday, and have been companionless from Illinois until Saturday evening, when Senators Broese and Douglass arrived. To day, Messrs. Richardson Smith and Turner came in. The others are yet missing. Wherever I have been since election I have found "that very fellow." As every one who comes here says has found him in his travels at all stopping places. The man "who started Gen. Taylor" is an ubiquitous low truly. Go where you will and he is there. I have heard that he had gone to Baton Rouge to see Gen. Taylor, but he is here too, if he is there. John Smith is in the pulpit and in the prison, on land and on land. Where there are a family of Smiths, there is a John. The fellow that started Gen. Taylor is in every hotel in this city, and yet we are told that he is in this place, that and the other, and is soon to be here. He is not hush, let him be where he will. For he asks for everything from a Cabinet officer to a country Post Master. And he ought to have it; for no one ever thought of "Old Zack" but him. He took him up and he put him through.

To be serious, this whole city is crowded to overflowing with the "Originals," as they are called here, making capital for office after the 4th of March. The rush at so early a day has no parallel; and yet all is confusion. Not a man knows who is to be who. It is equally in the dark who are to be Gen. Taylor's advisers and what are to be his measures. Those who started him are claiming everything, and every body claims to have originally started him. There must be some kind of an explosion in due time. Some men will not stand it to see Gen. Taylor in some men's hands. At present, it is openly conceded that Col. Jefferson Davis, a democratic U. S. Senator from Mississippi, is the only man who is in the secrets. He will be Secretary of War, if he will take it. His first wife was a daughter of Gen. Taylor, and he fought with him at Monterey. Gen. Taylor went to see him at his house immediately after he heard of his election. The most of the leading whigs of the Union, men who would be in the net and foreign Embassies, are here but I know that not one of them has received an intimation from Gen. Taylor that he wants their services or advice. It is generally believed that he will be a candidate for re-election, and that he will appoint no ultra politicians of either side to office; and it is avowed that he will make no removals unless for cause, either more or less political; but, when commissions run out, he will fill the vacancies with the men who can best give his administration strength with the people.—Chicago Dem.

Arrest of Americans in England.

Mr. WENTWORTH has offered the following resolution in House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to inform the House whether he has received any information of the imprisonment or arrest of citizens of the United States in the Province of Ireland by the British authorities, and if so the causes thereof; and also, not deemed inconsistent with the public interest, to inform this House what have been taken for their release; and furnish it with copies of all the correspondence that has taken place in relation to the matter.

THE POST OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT.

In 1790, the number of post offices was 75; extent of Post roads, 1,374 miles; number of the post office department, 33,985 and the expenditures, \$32,140. In 1817, the number of post offices was 1,146; extent of post roads, 153,818 miles; revenue of the department, \$3,255,000; expenditures, \$3,979,570. These figures, strikingly illustrate the growth of our country in population, business and intelligence.